

EMPLOYMENT BUREAU: A free-listing employment bureau has been maintained by the local chamber for several years. This past year has witnessed the greatest demand on this facility during its existence. Nearly five hundred people alone were registered during the unemployment stabilization program sponsored by the county. In addition to this service a classified listing on the bureau's regular forms has been maintained, serving domestic, commercial, industrial and general labor demands. Scores of individuals have been beneficially placed as a result of this service. While the task of conducting this bureau facility is somewhat thankless, due to the natural inability of this or any other organization to satisfactorily conclude each applicant's desire, it is nevertheless appreciated by those whom the service has been able to reach, as well as the concerns and individuals who have employed those benefited. As related in another portion of this report, the county stabilization department has highly commended this bureau for efficient performances in this capacity.

COMMITTEE ROOMS: Various other local organization groups use the committee rooms of the local chamber, where convenience and facilities afford a comfortable meeting place for such activity. An increasing popularity of these provisions is being experienced, and anyone desiring to avail themselves of these accommodations are cordially invited.

GENERAL: The Chamber of Commerce may be properly termed the clearing house of this community. This report, while rather lengthy, nevertheless only touches briefly the general program of activities with which it has been concerned and associated directly and in a cooperative capacity with the other organized agencies, contributing to the civic life of the city. The maximum measure of benefit which this organization can render is measured directly in proportion to the cooperation and use of the services which are maintained. It is to this end that this closing word is dedicated in the hope that the good people of Torrance will more thoroughly appreciate that this is their organization, can be still more effective through their cooperation with it, and their more active use of it.

YOUR DIVIDEND CHECK—TORRANCE GROWTH

During the past three or four years a good deal has been said about the annexation activities initiated by the Chamber of Commerce, and their resultant benefits to the city of Torrance. There still seems to be a woeful lack of understanding with the average citizen regarding the valuation benefit which this territorial acquisition has effected. The map shown on the opposite page has, therefore, been especially prepared to graphically illustrate this growth and valuation trend. The large white section in the right center of the map indicates the boundary of the original city of Torrance. The surrounding various shaded sections indicate annexations, Nos. 1 to 5 inclusive.

Annexations Nos. 1, 2, and 4, the major projects in our territorial growth, were conceived, initiated and concluded successfully wholly as a result of the Chamber of Commerce program. One may readily see that because of the nature of these vast, potential tracts the very minimum of re-expenditure in these areas has been required for various governmental services due to the sparse population in such areas. The valuation of these districts, however, has been correspondingly large, thus enabling the municipal revenues produced therefrom to contribute very largely to the direct gain of the original Torrance city. A definite illustration of this factor will be appreciated from the statement that previous to these major annexation activities the municipal tax rate of Torrance, not even including the ten cent promotion tax fund, was 98 cents. Today the tax rate, including the ten cent promotion fund and the necessary increase due to our participation in the metropolitan water district, is 68 cents. The low rate of 53 cents was attained during 1929.

When people are prone to criticize the ten cent promotion tax it might be well for them to countenance this one Chamber of Commerce activity. Today the assessed valuation of the original city of Torrance is \$11,656,605. The valuation of the annexed areas is \$12,633,195. It certainly does not require much calculating to convince any honest reader that this activity has paid very substantial dividends to the tax payers of the original city of Torrance. An interesting factor is that the annexed territory has also benefited mutually. If it had not been for these activities alone it is conservatively estimated that our tax rate during the last five years would have remained at 98 cents. Thus the tax saving benefits due to these added values has been at least forty per cent of the municipal rate which has, during this time, included the ten cent promotion fund. It should further be remembered that the benefits mentioned will continue in perpetuity, as it is natural that a large majority of the territory annexed will be developed industrially, thereby perpetuating these valuable attributes. In reality, the ten cent promotion fund has not cost the tax payers of Torrance one penny, and through these activities has actually saved annually nearly fifty thousand dollars represented through the reduced municipal tax rate since 1926. The exact revenue which these areas have earned for Torrance city taxes alone during the past five years is \$241,771.15, or ten times the amount of the promotion tax this year.

The above figures are taken from the County Auditor's Reports. When some ill-advised neighbor suggests no good is derived from the promotion fund, think this over and the many other activities embraced in this report.

"The test of a man's worth to his community is the service he renders to it"—
Theodore Roosevelt